

facilitated by technological innovation in cybernetics and telecommunications.

Has globalisation helped modernisation in Southeast Asia? A viable argument will be that it has strengthened it. Most successful Asian states embraced globalisation in the economic realm. That Southeast Asia has been a beneficiary of globalisation, is shown by the economic miracle in the second half of the twentieth century. Eight states, namely, Japan, Korea, Hong Kong, Singapore, Taiwan, Indonesia, Malaysia and Thailand grew economically faster in the 1990s than all other regions in the world. This explains why opposition to globalisation was less trident in Bangkok or Beijing than in London or Seattle.

The Origins

The voyage of Christopher Columbus who sailed across the Atlantic in 1492, and his discovery of America had momentous consequences. European powers set about opening up the world. All national governments function in an interdependent world. We witness the flow round the globe of aid, disease, drugs, information, money, culture, migrants and refugees.

There is no consensus on the specific moment when the global flow started. Some of the suggestions made by researchers are the dawn of human civilisation, the middle of the nineteenth century and the 1970s. We may not be wrong if we conclude that globalisation appeared scores of years ago and developed at a slower pace than today. We may trace the beginnings to the commencement of telegraphic communications (1840s) and certain global movements like feminism. Meetings to deal with transboundary pollution were held in the 1930s. However, the impact of globalisation was not felt by a large proportion of humanity. Below are some of the key events in the march of globalisation.

| Year | Event |
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| 1866 | First transoceanic telegraph cable |
| 1919 | First scheduled transborder airline services |
| 1930 | First global radio forecast |
| 1946 | First digital computer constructed |
| 1949 | First package holidays |
| 1955 | First McDonald's Restaurant |
| 1960 | Coining of the term 'Global Village' |
| 1971 | First electronic stock exchange established |
| 1976 | First direct broadcast satellite launched |
| 1978 | Detection of the ozone hole |
| 1991 | Introduction of World Wide Web |
| 1997 | Round-the-world fibre-optic link completed. |

Process

The term 'international' coined in the 1780s by the philosopher, Jeremy Bentham, caught hold when nation-states were formed and cross-border transactions between them began. In the 1980s a new term 'globalisation' came into vogue. It speaks of global markets, global conferences and global communications and also of global warming and global peace. The term represents a significant change that has been taking place in the world in the last four decades of the twentieth century.

Globalisation is a process. The many ways by which people meet with and affect each other are more and more being noted and organised, taking the world as a single place. The multi-faceted term and below are some of the ideas for globalisation stands.